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## REVIEWS AND NEW BOOKS

### General Works, Theory and Its History

#### NEW BOOKS

ASLANIAN, D. *Les principes de l'évolution sociale.* I. *La cinématique.* II. *La dynamique.* (Constantinople-Péra: D. Valéry. 1921. Pp. 29; 32.)

BURTON, E. D. and PARK, E. J. *Introduction to the study of sociology.* (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press. 1921.)

BURCH, H. R. *American economic life, in its civic and social aspects.* (New York: Macmillan. 1921. Pp. viii, 533.)

This brief elementary text, a revision of Dr. Burch's *Elements of Economics*, seems capable of guiding the student successfully through a mass of bookish material, with satisfaction in the process. The language has the ease and concreteness of conversation yet is scholarly and mature. The elements of economics are here considered as the problems of consumption, production, exchange, distribution, and economic reform. Every chapter is preceded by an outline of its contents, and followed by questions on the material studied, questions for discussion, and library references. The civic and social factors of American life are also emphasized. The book impresses one as a model of the art of teaching.

AMELIA C. FORD.

CONI, E. A. *Las tierras en economía política. Ensayo de diferenciación técnica, económica y social.* (Buenos Aires: Imprenta Mercatali, calle José A. Terry 285. 1920. Pp. 22.)

CUNNISON, J. *Economics.* (New York: Dutton. 1920. Pp. xv, 168. \$2.)

Despite its publication in the United States this little volume is a British book. The author is a lecturer in social economics at the University of Glasgow. The title is rather pretentious for so brief a treatise, but the author confines himself to the discussion of production in part I, The Making of Wealth; of distribution in part II, The Wealth of the Individual—Earning and Spending; and in part III, The Question of the System, he discusses the question of the limits of state intervention. Throughout the style is closely packed and unadorned. Much matter is compressed into few words.

Part III is concerned with what ought to be, and regards "with considerable doubt the easy optimism which suggests that freedom of enterprise leads to a just and smoothly working system." The facts of unemployment show that production does not accommodate itself quickly to change in demand as indicated by prices and wages. And prices are not a true measure of worth but of wants combined with means. "A rich lady would be willing to pay more for food for her dog than a poor man for food for his child." Such failures justify the public control of monopolies, labor legislation, social insurance, and the Poor Law. Lastly the text considers the regulation of industry in war time and after, concluding that government control "was intended to apply only so long as exceptional conditions lasted" and "implied no loss of faith in the efficacy of free economic forces, in normal times, to bring about the best results." A *via media* is found between crude individualism on the one hand and

absolute government control on the other in a conception of state action to "promote conditions of equality." This is illustrated by the development of a peculiar legal status for the trade unions which places them on a footing of equality with the employers.

A student having need of a concise statement of the essentials of economic theory will find this a useful little book. Not the least of its merits lies in the author's clear apprehension and constant application of his discussion to questions of human welfare. C. E. P.

EDIE, L. *Economics considered as a social science*. Edited by SEBA ELDRIDGE. (New York: Crowell. 1921.)

GOBBI, U. *La scienza economica de la crisi sociale*. (Milan: Hoepli. 1921.)

GUENTHER, A. *Krisis der Wirtschaft und der Wirtschaftswissenschaft*. (Dresden: Sybille-Verlag. 1921. 9 M.)

KIRKALDY, A. W. *Wealth: its production and distribution*. (New York: Dutton. 1920. Pp. 147. \$2.25.)

This is the introductory volume of a series, being published under the general editorship of G. Armitage Smith, which is to cover trade, commerce, exchange, and finance. This first book is "designed to explain in a lucid and popular manner the fundamental facts in the *production* of wealth and the causes which regulate *distribution*." Little emphasis is placed on matters of production which are disposed of along with the historical stages of man's development, the problems of money and money lending, the mercantile system, preliminary definitions, and other matters, in the first thirty pages. The remaining space is given to three chapters on land, labor and capital as factors in production. The doctrines presented can be briefly indicated: "Theoretically the amount of what is produced that can be claimed by the labour force we have just considered, is the whole body of wealth produced after the shares due to land and capital have been deducted. The amount due to land depends on the fertility or utility of the land; that due to capital is the market rate of interest together with an addition proportionate to the risk involved in the industry in which it is employed. In some cases the risk may be small, in others it may be considerable. This insurance against risk requires careful consideration. For instance, the risk increases when producers do not coöperate harmoniously, and production is thereby hampered" (pp. 73-74).

It is difficult to conceive what service a treatment so brief and discursive, not to say superficial, can render. It is certainly not fitted for a text and, while its preachments with their complacent defence of things as they are, may find favor in certain quarters, its doctrines, however pleasantly presented, cannot be said to furnish a dependable chart of the pathway of progress. C. E. P.

TURGEON, C. *La valeur d'après les économistes anglais et français depuis Adam Smith et les physiocrates jusqu'à nos jours*. (Paris: Recueil Sirey. 1921. 25 fr.)

WATTS, F. *An introduction to the psychological problems of industry*. (London: Allen & Unwin. 1921. 12s. 6d.)

WORMS, R. *Philosophie des sciences sociales*. Vol. III. *Conclusions des*

*sciences sociales*. Second edition revised. (Paris: Giard. 1920. Pp. 302.)

### Economic History and Geography

*The Yorkshire Woollen and Worsted Industries*. By HERBERT HEATON. Oxford Historical and Literary Studies, Vol. X. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1920. Pp. x, 457.)

This careful monograph is the first exhaustive study of any of the great textile districts of England. Important contributions to the history of some of the districts have been made by the writers in the volumes of the *Victoria County History*, notably by Professor Unwin and Miss Sellars, but even the best chapters in the county histories fail to exhaust the rich material that we now know is available. Mr. Heaton has made good use of local manuscripts and printed records, so that little remains to be done for Yorkshire.

Mr. Heaton has made no attempt to describe the changes in the industry in the nineteenth century. The narrative is brought down to the beginning of the transformation wrought by the Industrial Revolution, but for the later history the reader is referred to the work of Mantoux, Clapham, and the Hammonds. It was a wise decision thus to avoid the complex problems of the recent period, but it is to be hoped that writers whose interests are chiefly in the nineteenth century will make good use of Mr. Heaton's study. The eighteenth century appears in very different guise according as it is treated as the "good old time" prior to the wage slavery of the Industrial Revolution or as the period in which the outlived fabric of the feudal order was sloughed off. Full knowledge of the past, in this case as in others, reveals substantial discomforts and difficulties that can be easily forgotten when the past is made to serve merely as a decorative back-drop for the tragedy of the present day. Historians will not be surprised to find that Mr. Heaton discovered a social order that differs in many respects from the idyl so frequently drawn of the "spinners in the sun." "There was much in the cottage industry," he says, "which was quite as unhealthy as the conditions in the early factories." Dye vats, foul dyestuffs, charcoal stoves for heating combs, low ill-ventilated rooms, all contained elements of danger that were only in part counteracted by the opportunities for outdoor life in the intervals between the spells of industrial work (p. 349).

We find also this judgment of the old craft industry (pp. 350-351):

The Industrial Revolution has been accused of having destroyed man's joy in labour, and of depriving him of that pleasure which he is supposed to have experienced from working in his own home, at something which was entirely the work of his own hands. But the Industrial Revolution